

Whereupon the Honorable Messieurs Drummond, Rodier and Perley came to the Table and took and subscribed the oath prescribed by law, which was administered by Edouard Joseph Langevin, Esquire, one of the Commissioners appointed for that purpose, and took their seats accordingly.

The Honorable the Speaker then acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table the Certificate of one of the Commissioners setting forth that the Honorable Messieurs Drummond, Rodier and Perley, Members of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867.

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House, a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and it is as follows:—

OTTAWA, 30th January, 1889.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Session of the Dominion Parliament, on Thursday, the 31st instant, at 3 o'clock.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES COLVILLE, Captain,

*Governor General's Secretary.*

The Honorable

The Speaker of the Senate.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir Frederick Arthur Stanley, Baron Stanley of Preston, in the County of Lancaster, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Knight of the Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada, and Vice Admiral of the same, being seated in the Chair on the Throne.

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint the House,—“It is His Excellency's pleasure they attend him immediately in this House.”

Who, being come with their Speaker,

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

In addressing the Parliament of Canada for the first time, in fulfilment of the important trust which has been committed to me as Her Majesty's Representative, I desire to express the satisfaction with which I resort to your advice and assistance.

I am conscious of the honor which attends my association with your labors for the welfare of the Dominion, and it will be my earnest endeavor to co-operate with you, to the utmost of my power, in all that may promote the prosperity of the people of this country, the development of her material resources, and the maintenance of the constitutional ties which unite her provinces.

It is to be regretted that the treaty concluded between Her Majesty and the President of the United States for the adjustment of the questions which have arisen with reference to “The Fisheries,” has not been sanctioned by the United States Senate, in whom the power of ratification is vested; and that our legislation of last year on the subject is therefore in a great measure inoperative.

It now only remains for Canada to continue to maintain her rights as prescribed by the Convention of 1818, until some satisfactory re-adjustment is arranged by treaty between the two nations.

A measure will again be submitted to you to amend the Acts respecting the Electoral Franchise, for the purpose of simplifying the law and lessening the cost of its operation.

It is expedient, in the interests of commerce, to assimilate, and in some particulars to amend, the laws which now obtain in the several Provinces of the Dominion relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques, and Promissory Notes; and a Bill with this object will be laid before you.

A Bill will also be provided for making uniform throughout the Dominion the laws relating to Bills of Lading.

During the recess my Government has carefully considered the subject of Ocean Steam Service, and you will be asked to provide subsidies for the improvement of the Atlantic Mail Service, and for the establishment, in concert with Her Majesty's Government, of a line of fast steamers between British Columbia and China and Japan. Your attention will also be invited to the best mode of developing our trade, and securing direct communication by steam with Australasia, the West Indies, and South America.

A Bill will be submitted for your consideration for the prevention of certain offences in connection with Municipal Councils, and to give greater facilities for making enquiries as to such matters.

Several measures will also be presented to you for improving the law of procedure in criminal cases. Among these will be a Bill to permit the release on probation of persons convicted of first offences, a Bill authorizing regulations to be made for the practice in cases partaking of the nature of criminal proceedings, and a Bill to make the Speedy Trials Act applicable throughout Canada.

Bills relating to the inspection of timber and lumber, for the improvement of the Postal System, and for increasing the efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police, will also be submitted for your consideration.

The Royal Commissioners on Labor having concluded their enquiries, I hope to be able to lay before you at an early day their report with the important evidence collected by them in various parts of Canada.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts for the past and the Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. These Estimates have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the efficiency of the public service.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I now commend these several subjects and the others which may be brought before you to your earnest consideration, and I trust that the result of your deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, tend to promote the well-being and prosperity of Canada.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The Honorable Mr. Abbott presented to the House, a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.

The Honorable the Speaker reported His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, and the same was then read by the Clerk.